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Thursday, August 28, 2008

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Third-time festival chair hopes for good weather, equipment

Karen Porth, who chairs this year's National Sweetcorn Festival, is keeping her eyes skyward.

She's not looking for divine guidance on getting things ready for the festival, held Thursday through Monday. It's coming together nicely. Porth said the thought came to her Tuesday that "it's 2 p.m. on the Tuesday before festival and I don't have anything to do. I'm afraid," she said, laughing.

Instead, Porth is checking the sky for any signs of rain. When she last chaired the festival in 2003, with the theme "60 Sparkling Years," "it sparkling rained three of the five days," she said.

The first time she chaired the festival, with the theme "Shucking Into a New Millenium," the mechanical shucker broke and volunteers, including festival spectators, shucked corn by hand.

This year's theme, "Celebrating 65 Corn-tastic Years," has nothing to do with weather or machinery, which Porth hopes will make for a problem-free event.

The festival includes entertainment for all ages, including the National Sweetheart Pageant, with preliminaries Friday and Saturday night, with finals on Sunday. This year's pageant includes 39 contestants.

Ticket information for the pageant is available from the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce at (217) 283-7873.

New this year is Chicago Legends of the Stars, to be held at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday in the Odell Crabtree Shelter. Impersonators of Elvis, Garth Brooks, Neil Diamond and Tom Jones.

The Hoopeston Jaycees, event sponsors, are trying something else new this year - bringing in three days' worth of corn on a reefer truck. The 28 tons will be divided on the truck into amounts for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Previously, corn was trucked in from northern Indiana each day but high fuel costs caused the group to look for a less expensive way to bring corn to festival-goers, Porth said.

Other highlights include truck/tractor pulls, demo derbies, the Grand Parade at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in downtown Hoopeston, daily flea markets, classic car show, Rob Thompson Magic Show and teen dances.

Admission to the park is $1 Thursday and $2 per day the remaining day. Gate passes are $5/person for the entire festival and are available at The Chronicle, Hoopeston Multi Agency, Jerry's IGA, and the Chamber of Commerce, 301 W. Main.

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Saturday, Aug. 30
Pit Stop Patio
Food 1-4 p.m.
Kids Games 2-7 p.m.
5 Bands 2 p.m.-12 a.m.
Blind Crawdads 2-3 p.m.
Deja Vu 3-5 p.m.
Greely Wit 5-7 p.m.
Cuzin Eddie 7-9 p.m.
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Bring a lawn chair
$2 donation
Schieler Scholarship Fund
719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

65th National Sweet Corn Festival

August 28-September 1, 2008 McFerren Park - Hoopeston

Sponsored by the Hoopeston Jaycees

Thursday, August 28

5 p.m.	Gates, Display Areas Open
	$1 admission
	Beer Tent Opens in Annex
5-10 p.m.	Ride Special-Bracelet Night
7 p.m.	Truck/Tractor Pull 1 (Annex)
11 p.m.	Midway & Beer Tent close

Friday, August 29

5 p.m.	Gates Open - $2 admission
	Midway, Display Area Open
	Beer Tent Opens in Annex
7-10 p.m.	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
7 p.m.	National Sweetheart Pageant Preliminary (Civic Center)
	Truck/Tractor Pull II (Annex)
8 p.m.-11 p.m.	Teen Dance (Odell Crabtree Shelter)
11 p.m.	Midway closes

Saturday, August 30

6 a.m.	Flea Market Opens
7:30 a.m.	1 Mile Fun Run/Walk - Honeywell School
8 a.m.	Sweetcorn 5K Run - Honeywell School
8:45 a.m.	Little Corn Eaters Run - Honeywell School
9 a.m.	Gates Open - $2 admission
	Custom Car Show (South End)
10:30 a.m.	Grand Parade
Noon	Midway, Display Area Open
	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
	Petting Zoo, Pony & Camel Rides
1-4 p.m.	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
1:30 pm.	Beer Tent Opens in Annex
1:30-5:30 p.m.	**Free Sweetcorn Served**
3:30 p.m.	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
4:30 p.m.	Chicago Legends of the Stars (Odell Crabtree Shelter
6 p.m.	Demo Derby I (Annex)
7-10 p.m.	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
7 p.m.	National Sweetheart Pageant Preliminary (Civic Center)
8 p.m.-11 p.m.	Teen Dance (Odell Crabtree Shelter)
11 p.m.	Midway closes
12 a.m.	Beer Tent closes

Sunday, August 31

8 a.m.	Flea Market Opens
9 a.m.	Gate Opens - $2 admission
Noon	Midway, Display AreaOpen;
	Petting Zoo, Pony & Camel Rides
	Rob Thompson Magic - Odell Crabtree Shelter
12-4 p.m.	**Free Sweet corn served**
12-10 p.m.	Beer Tent Opens in Annex
1-4 p.m.	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Autograph Session—Civic Center
3 p.m.	William Mitchell, Hypnotist (Jaycee Shelter
	Sweetcorn Eating Contest
5 p.m.	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
6 p.m.	Demo Derby II -(Annex)
7 p.m.	National Swetheart Pageant Finals (Civic Center)
	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
8 p.m.	William Mitchell, Hypnotist (Jaycee Shelter)
10 p.m.	Pageant Reception
	Midway, Beer Tent close

Monday, September 1

8 a.m.	Flea Market Opens
9 a.m.	Gates Open - $2 admission
9:30 a.m.	Antique Auto Show– South end of Park
	Display Area Opens
11 a.m.	William Mitchell, Hypnotist (Jaycee Shelter)
Noon	Midway, Beer Tent Opens
	Petting Zoo, Pony & Camel Rides
12-4 p.m.	**Free Sweetcorn Served**
12:30 p.m.	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
1-4 p.m.	Raffle (Legion Shelter)
2 p.m.	Chili Cook Off (Beer Tent)
	William Mitchell Hypnotist (Jaycee Shelter)
3-8 p.m.	Last Blast Rideathon-Bracelet Day
4 p.m.	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
6 p.m.	Rob Thompson Magic - Jaycee Shelter
9 p.m.	Midway & Beer Tent close

Jaycees have the right to alter this schedule

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 86. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 66. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 84, low 57.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, **(217) 283-6221**.

B I N G O

every Thursday 7 p.m.

Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Penn

Welcome Queens & Guests

Tacos will not be served at the VFW this week.

They will be back next Thursday, Sept. 4

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

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HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 is seeking applications for a full-time custodial position. Starting pay is $8.00 per hour. Starting date to be determined. Applications available in the Superintendent's Office.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston: 3 BR house. Almost completely remodeled. No pets. References. $450/mo. (217) 841-1852

3 BR, 1.5 bath, newly remodeled. Washer/dryer hookups. Available Sept. 1. $475/mo. (217) 304-2145

RUMMAGE SALES

Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home, 701 E. Orange, Hoopeston. Southwest door (main entrance). Fri, 9-noon. Microwave & stand, 12" TV w/remote, bookcase, shelves, pictures, knickknacks, baskets, baked goods, lots of misc.

McVicker Moving Sale! Everything must go! Sat. & Sun., 8:30-1. 1 mi. west of stoplight in Rossville. Computer desks, love seat & chair, toys, holiday decorations, books, clothes, shoes and lots more!

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!